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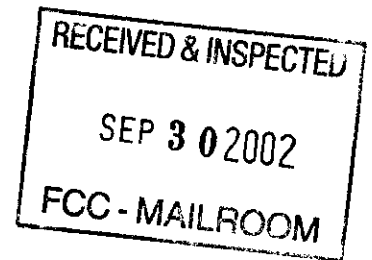
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CHARLES E. THOMAS
(1913 - 1998)

September 27, 2002

Via Federal Express

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
9300 East Hampton Drive
Capitol Heights, MD 20743

Re: Armstrong Telephone Company
CC Docket No.96-45, Certification Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §54.314

Dear Ms. Dortch:

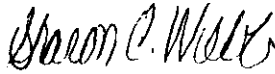
Enclosed is a copy of the letter issued today by the Maryland Public Service Commission with respect to the Universal Service Funds Certification referenced above. It is our understanding that the Maryland Commission has faxed this document to your offices today and that a facsimile from the Maryland Commission will satisfy your requirements as far as the October 1, 2002 filing deadline for said certifications. We were also informed that the original letter was sent via first class mail to your offices on this date from the Maryland Commission.

Should you have any questions or require additional information regarding this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

THOMAS, THOMAS, ARMSTRONG & NIESEN

By


Sharon E. Webb

Enclosures

cc: Barbara Dizenzo (first class mail)
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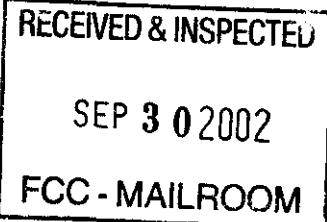


PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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FRENCIA L. GREER
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



September 27, 2002

VIA FACSIMILE & U.S. MAIL

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45, Certification Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §54.314

Dear Secretary Dortch:

Pursuant to the requirements of 47 C.F.R. §54.314, the Public Service Commission of Maryland ("Maryland PSC") hereby certifies to the Federal Communications Commission ("Commission") that all federal high-cost support provided to Armstrong Telephone Company of Maryland ("Armstrong") for the period commencing January 1, 2003 and ending December 31, 2003, will be utilized in a manner consistent with §254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. As required by §254(e), Armstrong will utilize the Federal high-cost support for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

The Commission has reviewed Armstrong's request for certification and is satisfied that all federal Universal Service high cost support funds flowing to the Company, a rural local exchange carrier, will continue to be utilized solely for the purposes intended under §254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. A copy of Armstrong's affidavit in support of its request is attached.

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